EAST MONTPELIER
Vt.
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Wm B. Stevens
Care Capt. Foster, Co. G.
4th Reg. V. V. M.
Washington
D. C.

Uncle David Dogget died yesterday morning —

Perly Pitkin I suppose, thee knows, is now at home — he takes his son back I hear — he thinks the war will not continue long & that Washington is safe from any attack.

I heard that James Clark's wife had had a letter from him & that he was somewhere near Washington.

We have a frenchman at work for us who has a wife residing in the village near the academy he went home after milking the night that the Sargent came in pursuit of James — he met said officer on his way — when he got home his wife told him that Jem had deserted & that Levi P. was after him — so if he did not find him it was not because his business was not known — Levi told Jane that Hiram Orcutt came to the camp at B. & enquired for Wm Stevens captain of the Plainfield company — which I took the liberty to disbelieve — Has thee seen Blanchard on O. Hill? Did thee see Frank Lawrence in Phil. — our mail has got back to its old time — I hope to get a letter from thee or Henry tomorrow — Thy mother

Thy prayers for thy preservation & safety are breathed by night & day

East Montpelier 29th of 9th mo /61

My dear son William

As the absorbing interest with us since thee left, has been in the news from the Vermont 4th — it seems as if I had not much to write about — & still have been anxiously waiting to hear where to direct — & was informed by thy very welcome letter to sis. Many every item of which is of the deepest interest to us — My heart overflows in thankfulness, that the journey was accomplished in safety — so many terrible accidents are constantly happening — but ah! it sinks in fear & dismay when I look into the probable future — I fear that Timothy will also go to the war — it may be my lot to say with E. B. B.

"Dead! one of them shot by the sea in the east —
And one of them shot in the west by the sea
Dead! Both my boys — When they sit at the feast
And one wanting a great song for Italy free

Let none look at me".

I am glad to hear that Henry has recovered, & also that thy health is so good - how does thy wrist hold out - it seems to me your marching in Brattleborough was rather unreasonable - Ann said thee carried more than thy own burthen - I hope thee will not try to help others too much, & injure thyself - though I think it is a beautiful trait to be willing to do as we would be done by & this is no more than the christian's duty & if this rule were applied to the South how could you "hurt & destroy" "If thy enemy hunger feed him - if he thirst, give him drink - & if he smite thee one one cheek turn the other - & if he take thy cloak give him thy coat" ——

I am glad to hear of your good regulations & of your sober conduct - I expect thee & Henry will have a good influence & will make foot prints that will lead others in the right way - I trust you will keep a clear & tender conscience -

I presume Mary will write thee very soon - she has been at Plainfield & has improved very much —

Last week we had a short but very pleasant visit from cousin Wm Stevens & wife - he seemed exceedingly surprised to hear of thy going to the war - said any other one would not have surprised him so much - he thought thy health was sufficient if nothing else, to prevent — They arrived first-day morning & left third day at noon — Kezia appeared well but looks very young - 22 & 41 —— Moses & Henry are so displeased with her marrying him on account of his age that they do not visit her atal - her father did not object - it appears Moses did not think 10 years too much —

Our sweet corn & shelled beans are excellent - & many other things in the garden constantly remind me of thee & I wish thee could share them —